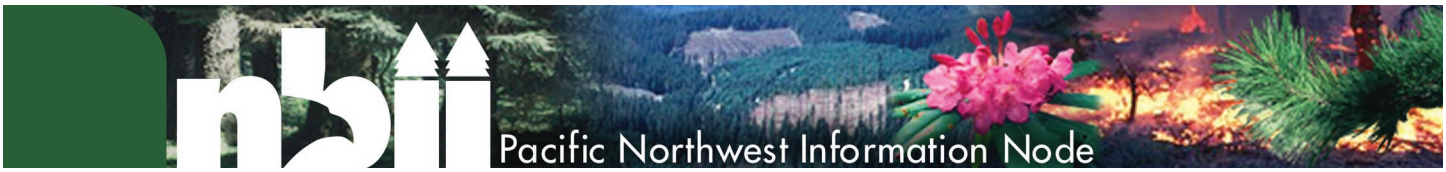


NBII Pacific Northwest Information Node

The NBII Pacific Northwest Information Node provides a dynamic source for information exchange, communication, and decision support . . .

Background

The National Biological Information Infrastructure (NBII) <www.nbii.gov> is an electronic information network that provides access to biological data and information on our nation's plants, animals, and ecosystems. Data and information maintained by federal, state, and local government agencies; non-government organizations; and private-sector organizations are linked through the NBII gateway and made accessible to a variety of audiences including researchers, natural resource managers, decision-makers, educators, students, and other private citizens.

Implementation of the NBII is being accomplished through the development of nodes that serve as interconnected entry points to the NBII and the information held by partners. These nodes function as fully digital, distributed, and interactive systems that focus on developing, acquiring, and managing content on a defined subject area (thematic nodes) or a geographic region (regional nodes). One of the regional nodes is the Pacific Northwest Information Node (PNWIN).

Primary Issues

The individuals and offices contributing to the development and maintenance of the PNWIN have a collective vision. Sharing a common base of scientific information in a value neutral format will facilitate reasoned debate and decision-making, thereby reducing conflict and leading to productive outcomes.

The node provides a dynamic focus for information exchange, communication, and decision support for natural resources management across the region. When fully developed, the node will be a regional source of biophysical data, bibliographic summaries, management principles, and regulatory requirements for public and private lands. The node also plans to provide additional user tools for decision-making and planning.

Partners

Major partners include the U.S. Forest Service Pacific Northwest Research Station in Seattle, WA; U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Forest and Rangeland Ecosystem Science Center (FRESC) in Corvallis, OR; University of Washington in Seattle, WA; Oregon State University in Corvallis, OR; Northwest Habitat Institute in Corvallis, OR; Regional Ecosystem Office in Portland, OR; and University of British Columbia in Vancouver, BC.

Each partner brings specific expertise to the node:

U.S. Geological Survey, Center for Biological Informatics (Denver, CO)
Administer the node.

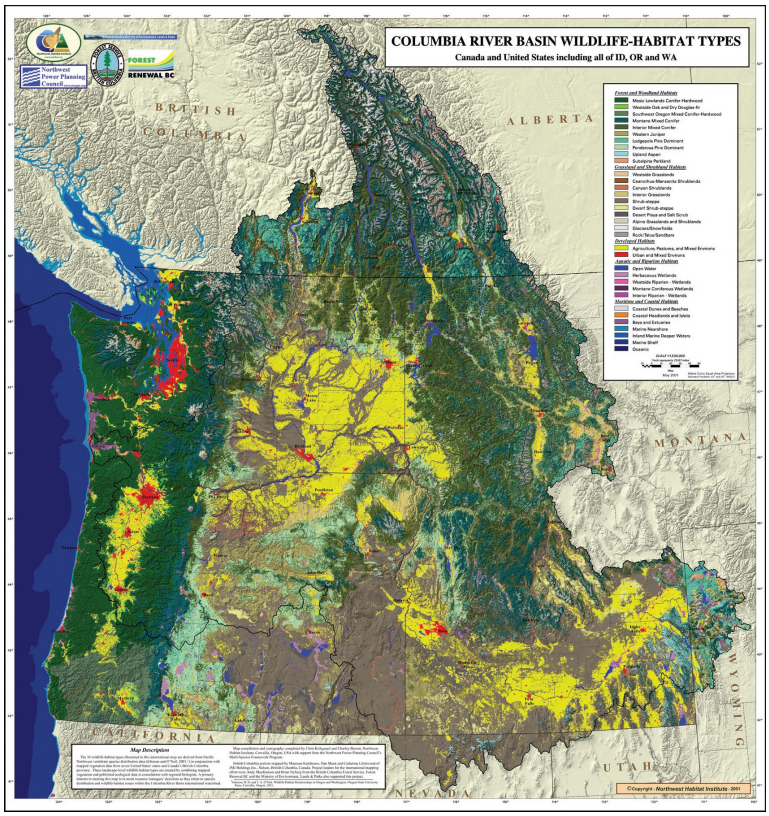
U.S. Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station (Seattle, WA)
Provide content for the node.

U.S. Geological Survey, FRESC Headquarters (Corvallis, OR)
Provide technical, administrative, and logistical support.

University of Washington (Seattle, WA)
Department of Geography provides technical expertise on project design and geographic data; University of Washington Libraries Offers technical expertise on information databases and cataloguing; and Olympic Natural Resources Center provides technical expertise on serving data and metadata.

Oregon State University, Northwest Alliance for Computational Science and Engineering (Corvallis, OR)
Facilitate the development and application of network tools, Web sites, and decision support systems, and acquire key data sets.

Northwest Habitat Institute (Corvallis, OR)
Develop relational database and interactive Internet interface for the Interactive Biodiversity Information



Wildlife-Habitat Types depicted for the entire Pacific Northwest including the Columbia River Basin within the United States and Canada

System based on the data from the Wildlife-Habitat Types in Oregon and Washington publication (Oregon State University Press, 2001).

Regional Ecosystem Office (Portland, OR)
Provide access to Northwest Forest Plan documents and monitoring databases.

Fire Research and Management Exchange System, University of Idaho (Boise, ID)
Provide content for the node.

Global Forest Information Service (Vienna, Austria)
Provide content for the node.

Natural Resources Information Network (Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada)
Provide content for the node.

Initial Product

The PNWIN site focuses on several components: (1) key data sets relevant to the scientifically based management of natural resources in the region; (2) bibliographies, regulatory information, and other links on the management of natural resources in the Pacific Northwest; and (3) user tools (e.g., decision support systems and models) that facilitate decision-making and planning by forest resource managers.

Projects include providing access to:

- Database on moss, lichen, and liverworts, which are a critical component of forests, from Olympic National Park that provides species descriptions, images, and distribution information;
- Bureau of Land Management study on forest density to determine if specific management practices can improve habitat and increase timber production;
- High-elevation tree ring study that provides information about climatic change in the Pacific Northwest;
- Significant publications such as the Northwest Forest Plan and its associated documents;
- The Landscape Management System and Ecosystem Management decision support tools, which enable managers to evaluate particular actions and their effect on the forests;
- Access to more than 700 wildlife species in Oregon and Washington, habitat characteristics, and the impact of various management activities on habitat through the Interactive Biodiversity Information System;
- Web-based query system to access the Midwinter Bald Eagle Survey, a source of information about long-term trends of raptor species in partnership with the NBII Bird Conservation Node; and
- International forestry data and information through collaboration with the Global Forest Information Service and the Canadian Natural Resources Information Network.

In addition to completing pending projects, the node anticipates launching a new section devoted to fire science. In partnership with the Fire Research and Management Exchange System (FRAMES), based at the University of Idaho, the node plans to synthesize scientific data and management information, including user tools and modeling software pertaining to fire science.

The Pacific Northwest Node demonstrates the value of providing access to a wide variety of natural resources data and information for the benefit of land managers, decision-makers, researchers, and the public.

For More Information

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